

Summer Silage Is Insurance Against Dry Weather Losses

Every Dairy Farmer Should Strive for Enough Silo Space to Carry Over Some Feed for Summer Emergency—Strong Points of Feed Storage Places.

The time has nearly arrived for silage silos—has quite arrived for building additional ones if more space is needed.

Materials are high. It may be a question with the individual farmer whether he can afford to build a silo this year.

Realizing that possibility, the United States Department of Agriculture believes that many men may be inclined to give too much weight to construction cost and not enough to silage value, and that therefore the advantages of the silo ought at least to be restated.

Advantages of Silos.

Here are some of the outstanding points in which the department's dairy specialists think of silos:

In general, more cow feed can be grown on an acre of ground in corn than in any other crop.

When put in a silo it is more easily harvested and cared for than any other crop.

Silage operations are absolutely independent of weather conditions. Corn for silage can be harvested in the rain.

The silo makes possible full utilization of corn that otherwise would be destroyed or damaged by frost.

The silo makes it possible to keep more animals on a given acreage.

COVERING THE SILAGE

Several years ago it was a common practice to cover the silage with some material, such as dirt or cut straw, in order to prevent the top layer from spoiling. At present when any provision at all is made for this purpose it consists usually in merely running in on top corn-stalks from which the ears have been removed. By this method some of the corn grain is saved. The heavy green corn-stalks pack much better than straw does and so exclude the air more effectually. The top is thoroughly tramped and then wet down. Sometimes oats are sown on the top before wetting. The heat generated by the fermenting mass will cause the oats to sprout quickly and form a dense sod, which serves to shut off the air from the silage beneath, and in consequence only a very shallow layer spoils. Whenever possible, it is better to begin feeding from the silo as soon as it is filled; by doing this no covering is necessary and there should be no loss on account of spoiling, says the United States Department of Agriculture.

which means more manure and constantly increased soil fertility.

Harvesting corn as silage clears the ground early so it can be prepared for other crops.

With silage it is not necessary to put so many acres in hay.

In any other form a considerable portion of the feeding value is lost. Corn cured as fodder loses about 40 per cent of its feeding value.

Corn preserved as silage loses only silos under extreme high prices, there can be no question about the economy of filling to capacity those that are already up.

Every man who has a silo should aim not only to put up enough silage to carry his herd through the winter but to have some for summer feeding, at least in case of emergency.

Even in the best of pasture regions, cows frequently drop 20 to 50 per cent in production—even more sometimes—in midsummer when drought cut the pastures short.

When the rains come later, these cattle do not return to 100 per cent production.

If there is some stuff in the silo when the dry weather comes, the cows can be kept up in production through the drought and carried on at maximum production through the season.

Make Room For Summer Silos.

Summer silage is, to the dairy farmer, insurance against loss from drought.

If he has not sufficient capacity to carry over summer silage, more should be constructed as soon as it is at all feasible.

The summer silo, to give the most service possible, should be of smaller diameter than the winter silo, for in order to keep it in perfect condition silage must be fed to a greater depth each day in summer than in winter.

As compared with soiling crops, summer silage saves labor at a time when labor is urgently needed for other things.

Dairy farmers are realizing more and more every year that they must have summer silos.

HOW TO PRESERVE SILOS FOR FUTURE USEFULNESS

Now that the cost of constructing silos is high it is more important than ever to protect against decay those that are already built.

A good inside coating for silos, specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture say, is coal-tar solution, thinned if necessary with gasoline, and applied with a paint brush. The best plan is to apply it one or two days before the silo is to be filled, but it can be done successfully during filling, the men in the silo painting a strip as high as they can reach, and repeating the process periodically until the top is reached. When put on in this way the material must be thinned with gasoline, which evaporates almost immediately

ly and leaves the coal-tar dry enough not to injure the silage.

The same preparation is good also for coating the outside wall. The only objection is that black outside paint is not as pleasing in appearance as that of a lighter color. The high cost of linseed oil and prepared paints, however, cause many silo owners to neglect painting with those materials, and a black outer coat is certainly preferable to deterioration for lack of paint.

Wooden-stave silos that have begun to rot at the base—where decay usually begins—can be saved by sawing off the rotten portion. It is necessary, of course, to block up the silo before the sawing is done, and then to lower it gradually. Carefully handled, a silo can be saved off and lowered absolutely without injury. After this operation there is likely to be three or four years of life left in a silo that without it would have been worthless.

A PERFECT EAR.



The appeal which the government issued early this year, urging the production of a large crop of vegetables and farm products of all kinds, as a means of assisting America to check the food famine of the Old World, evidently did not fall on deaf ears in this section of the country. An early evidence of this is found in the unusually large number of early entries which have been received by the farm products show to be held at Nebraska's Victory State Fair, Lincoln, Aug. 31 to Sept. 5.

First Attempt to Explore Africa.

The first organized attempt to explore the interior of Africa was made by Mungo Park, who set sail on his initial voyage to the Dark Continent 123 years ago. He returned two years and seven months later after having explored a considerable section of Africa never before visited by a white man, although he failed in his main purpose, which was to trace the source of the River Niger.

Paid for Listening.

For 123 years a sermon has been preached in Hendon (Eng.) parish church on the text, "Human life is a bubble." Richard Johnson, who died in 1795, left the masters and wardens of the Stationers' company trustees of his estate, and out of the interest the vicar of Hendon was to receive one guinea for preaching this sermon, and two wardens of the company a guinea each for listening to it.

Fruit Is Healthful.

Fruits are not only wholesome as food but often act beneficially as medicines. The acids of some fruits are good destroyers of disease germs and tend to restore as well as keep the organs of secretion and the whole digestive tract in a healthy condition.

Cure for Rheumatism.

A certain variety of seaweed, known in Ireland as "tope," has been recommended by a famous physician as a cure for rheumatism and throat affections if eaten hot, whilst in some parts of England and Wales a variety of seaweed, known as "laver," has been in demand for years as a vegetable. Served with roast meats it is said to be extremely palatable.

No Sense in It.

"I don't see any sense in doctors being sick," said little Elizabeth, "because they're right around with themselves all the time."—Medical Journal.

Physician's High Privileges.

In England the only civilian who has a right to pass through marching troops is the court physician on his way to a royal residence. He can make even the household cavalry open their ranks to him.

The Scrap Book

TOM SAW POINT AT ONCE

Undoubtedly It Was as Well That No Chances Should Be Taken With That Live Cigar.



"Tom," she said softly, as she looked trustfully into his expectant eyes. "What is it, dearest?" he asked, tenderly. "Don't you think, Tom," she continued, slowly, "that you had better throw away that cigar?" "Do you object to smoke, my dear?" he asked in surprise. "Oh, no, Tom, not at all," she replied, quickly. "I rather like the smell of a good cigar, but—but—" "But what, dearest?" "But you are so forgetful, Tom, and—and—if you should forget to take the cigar out of your mouth you might—even a slight burn on my cheek, you know, would cause comment." The cigar was thrown away, and a minute later there was nothing but blush on the fair cheek to indicate that Tom had taken a hint.

Paying War Debts.

There is no uniform rule of action regarding the payment of war debts. Some war debts have been entirely paid off, and others have been greatly reduced. In 1793, following the Revolutionary war, the public debt of the United States was \$80,352,634. It was reduced year by year until 1812, when it was \$45,209,737. During the war of 1812 it increased till 1816, when it was \$127,834,933. Then followed a long period of steady yearly reduction till in 1835 it stood at the nominal figure of \$17,512, with much more than that balance in the treasury. Circumstances brought a long period of growth in the public debt till 1866, following the Civil war, it was \$2,773,236,173. Since then there have been periods of reduction and periods of increase. During the present war the debt has increased rapidly.

IRELAND IN FLANDERS.

Deep in the trenches, patient, still,
Before Messines the Irish lay,
Whilst flame and thunder from the hill
Swept down on them by night and day.

Over the parapet like a flood,
Orange and green together go;
The lust of battle in their blood,
They burst upon the astonished foe.

Have at them, gallowglass and kern,
Whose fathers smote the Danish host!
Have at them, sinewy sons of Erne,
And men from storied Antrim's coast!

High up the orange flag is seen
To crown the hard-contested height,
Beside it the immortal green,
That never fell behind in fight.

Orange and green charged side by side,
Resistless as a tidal wave;
For freedom fought, for freedom died,
And sleep within a common grave.

There discord may forever cease;
For not in vain their blood was shed,
If North and South shake hands in peace
Above their consecrated dead.
—J. Cuthbert Scott in London Graphic.

Great Reward.

Elsie Janis, who has been in France for months, among soldiers in training camps and hospitals, says in the Red Cross Magazine:

"Every soldier to whom I have ever sung has always been so grateful that it has made me feel that although I can't carry a gun I have been able to do my bit. Said a little cockney to me once, when I sympathized with him on the loss of his arm, 'Lor' luv'ys, Miss Janis, it might 'ave been worse. O' might 'ave lost me heyesight an' then I shouldn't 'ave been able to see you, miss.'"

"Could one ask for a greater reward?"

Praises Arctic Musk Ox.

The Arctic musk ox can be domesticated and raised in the Arctic regions to produce as good wool as domestic sheep, according to Vilhjalmur Stefansson, noted explorer, who is at Fort Yukon, Alaska, recovering from an attack of typhoid fever. This is the message brought to Seattle from the explorer by Peter C. Lepetch, gold prospector, who came to the States to enter the military service. Lepetch says Stefansson intends to go to Nome, Alaska, to board his ship for another trip into the unexplored Arctic regions.

War Balloons.

The war balloons are technically known as "elephants" by the men at the front. Swinging far aloft at the end of a cable, these "elephants" support trained observers who by means of powerful field glasses and telephones, give range and direction to batteries. The balloons, held stationary by a cable four or five thousand feet in the air, are ideal points of observation, but they are also shining marks for the anti-aircraft guns of the enemy and also for his planes.

Intermediary.

"Are you writing regularly to your boy Josh?" "I dunno," replied Farmer Corn-tassel. "I kind o' got an idea that I've been writin' to the censor. After the censor takes out the news he wants he lets Josh keep the change."

Wife's Reply.

"You are an angel." "I guess that's right. An angel has but one gown and for her the styles never change."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Spanish-American War. Spain declared war against the United States April 24, 1898. The first American army of invasion of Cuba, under General Shafter, sailed from Tampa, Fla., June 14, and landed at Santiago, Cuba, June 23. The battle between the "Rough Riders" and the Spanish forces occurred on June 24, the battle of El Caney on July 1 and the surrender of Santiago on July 16.

Matter All Settled.

My neighbor's son came into the house the other day, leading a child by the hand. We looked our astonishment, when we saw the little quaint stranger, and he immediately made this announcement: "I adopted her; she was all alone and crying, so I adopted her and she can have all my toys, 'cepting my bicycle."—Chicago Tribune.

Travel Is Expensive.

"De Bible say dat de poor you hab wiv you always," ruminated Shinbone, "an' I reckon dat's kase dey is too poor ter break away."—Boston Transcript.

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